(b) whether Government are responsible for ensuring its compliance for improvement of working conditions of beedi labour;

(c) whether any focus has been brought on this subject;

(d) whether any study has been conducted during 1996-97 on the effectiveness of the legislation for welfare of beedi workers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) A statement is annexed *(See* below).

(d) No such study has been commissioned by the Government or has come to its notice during 1996-97.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir. The Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 has been enacted specifically to provide for the welfare of beedi workers, to regulate conditions of their work and to safeguard their interests. Moreover, in order to finance measures to promote welfare of beedi workers, the Central Government have enacted the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 and to provide for the levy and collection by way of cess, the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 has been enacted.

(b) and (c) The enforcement of the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 is the responsibility of the State Governments and they have been advised, from time to time, to ensure its strict compliance. The administrations of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund set up under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 is the responsibility of the Central Government which administers the Fund for the purpose of providing various welfare measures to beedi workers and the working of this Fund is reviewed from time to time by the Central and State Advisory Committees set up under the Fund.

Closure of Industries/Factories

248. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units/factories closed during each of the last three years and on what grounds;

(b) to what extent there has been unemployment on account of these closures;

(c) what was the total employment in the industrial sector during each of the last three years; and

(d) what was the total number of unemployed during each of the last three years and what measures have been taken to remove unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) According to information made available from Labour Bureau, Shimla the number of units closed during 1994, 1995 and 1996 were 228, 183 and 204 respectively. The main causes for these closures were financial stringency, lack of demand for products, shortage of raw-materials, shortage of power, demand for higher wages and allowances, indiscipline and violence, inter/intra union rivalries, etc.

(b) The workers affected due to closure of these units during 1994, 1995 and 1996 were 21394, 14495 and 11390 respectively.

(c) Employment in the organised sector by major industries on 31st March of the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 was 273.75, 275.25 and 279.41 lakhs respectively.

(d) According to the live register of employment exchanges in the country, the total number of jobseekers as on 31st dec. of 1994, 1995 and 1996 were 266.91, 367.42 and 374.30 lakhs. The Ninth Plan aims at generating greater employment through the growth process by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and tech-

nologies which are labour intensive (such as agriculture & rural development), in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. Special programmes are being implemented to develop skills, enhance technological levels and provide marketing channels for people engaged in traditional occupations.

असंगठित क्षेत्र के श्रमिकों को श्रम कानूनों की जानकारी दिया जाना

249. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने असंगठित क्षेत्र के श्रमिकों को विभिन्न श्रम कानूनों के प्रावधानों की जानकारी देने हेतु कोई प्रयास किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में गत तीन वर्षों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार को इस संबंध में क्या उपलब्धियां रही हैं?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम०पी० वीरेन्द्र कुमार): (क) से (ग) सरकार ने केन्द्रीय श्रमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड का गठन आवधिक प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों, सेमिनारों, कैम्पों आदि के माध्यम से कर्मकारों को, उनमें वे कर्मकार भी शामिल हैं जो असंगठित क्षेत्र में नियोजित हैं; अपने अधिकारों और दायित्वों के बारे में शिक्षित करने के लिए किया गया है। पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान बोर्ड द्वारा प्रशिक्षित किए गए कर्मकारों की संख्या नीचे दी गई है:

वर्ष	प्रशिक्षित किए गए कर्मकारों की कुल संख्या
1994-95	156424
1995-96	140121
1996-97	145921

Insurance Scheme for Labourers in Organised Sectors

250. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start any insurance scheme for the labourers engaged in organised sectors on the pattern of ESIC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Employees' State Insurance Scheme is itself a comprehensive insurance scheme applicable to the workers engaged in the organised sector. In the case of death/ disablement the ESI Scheme provides for periodical payment of cash benefits at the rate of 70% of the monthly wage. In addition the scheme also provides full medical care in kind.

Bringing of Tendu Leaf collections under the Beedi Welfare Act

251. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to bring tendu leaf collections under the auspices of the Beedi Welfare Act;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to provide external assistance to tendu leaf collections giving complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Tendu leaf collection is a seasonal work which lasts for a few weeks only. Moreover, the working conditions and problems of tendu leaf collectors are quite different from those of beedi workers.

(c) Does not arise.